

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE CHILDREN,
3 YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
4 JOIN IN CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER MEASURES TO COMBAT UNDERAGE
5 DRINKING IN NEW MEXICO.

6
7 WHEREAS, underage drinking is one of the most serious
8 public health and social problems facing New Mexico, with
9 over ninety-eight thousand underage users of alcohol in 2001;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in 2001, underage drinkers consumed over
12 one-fourth of all alcohol sold in New Mexico, totaling one
13 hundred eighty-eight million dollars (\$188,000,000) in sales,
14 which generated ninety-two million dollars (\$92,000,000) in
15 projected profits for the liquor industry; and

16 WHEREAS, underage drinking costs the citizens of New
17 Mexico approximately six hundred seventy-one million dollars
18 (\$671,000,000) annually in medical costs, work loss, pain and
19 suffering; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks second highest among the fifty
21 states for the cost of underage drinking, at three thousand
22 three hundred sixty-six dollars (\$3,366) per youth; and

23 WHEREAS, underage drinking results in serious or fatal
24 traffic accidents, youth violence, property crime, high-risk
25 sex, suicide, sexual assault and death from alcohol

1 poisoning; and

2 WHEREAS, underage drinking is more likely to kill young
3 people than all illegal drugs combined and can result in
4 children born with fetal alcohol syndrome;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department, the
7 children, youth and families department and the department of
8 health be requested to participate in campaigns to increase
9 awareness of the problem of underage drinking in New Mexico;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments join the
12 efforts of southern New Mexico human development,
13 incorporated, the rural organizational project entity
14 coalition, the environmental youth coalition and other
15 organizations around the state to address underage drinking
16 and develop successful prevention and intervention
17 strategies; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the public education department, the children,
20 youth and families department and the department of health.____